Misuse of passports

3295. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the lost passports were misused with adverse implication due to non-issue/delay in issue of circulars;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a delay in issue of passports on Police Verification Report (PVR) overdue basis due to delay in receiving PVRs the reason for delays;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Blank Travel Documents *i.e.* passport booklets, visa stickers etc., went missing in transit;

(d) if so, the details of the cases; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Government have introduced, with effect from January 2003, the procedure of making entries of lost passports in the "Passport Information Services on Net" (PISON), which is a computerised information network available to all Passport Issuing Authorities including Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Access to the PISON has also been provided to all major immigration check posts in India. This has minimised the possibility of misuse of passports reported lost by the passport holders. Recently, the Ministry has reiterated instructions to all Passport offices and the Indian Missions/Posts abroad that duplicate passports against lost passports should be granted only after the necessary entry in the PISON and issue of loss circular to the Check Posts.

(b) Issuing of passports on 'Police Verification Report Overdue Basis' was stopped in 2000.

(c) to (e) 500 ordinary passport booklets, which were sent by India Security Press, Nasik through Speed Post to the Diplomatic Bag Section of the Ministry of External Affairs for onward dispatch to Indian Missions abroad, went missing in transit at Palam Airport, Delhi. The Delhi Police has recovered 467 passport booklets. The Ministry has revoked the remaining 33 missing passport booklets to prevent their misuse.

Some blank passport booklets, visa stickers and emergency certificates supplied to a few Indian Missions/Posts abroad were not accounted for as mentioned in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on the Performance audit of Passport, Visa and Consular Services covering the period 2000-01 to 2004-05. However, most of these documents were subsequently accounted for or action was taken to prevent their misuse as per details given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of cases involving unaccounted travel documents as reported in the Performance Audit of Passport, Visa and Consular Services (2000-01 to 2004-05)

Sl. No.	Name of the Mission/ Post abroad	Unaccounted travel documents	Status
1	2	3	4
1	Consulate General of India, Jeddah	200 passport booklets	Post confirmed that the 200 passport booklets were accounted for subsequently as these were sent to Embassy of India, Riyadh.

1	2	3	4
2	Consulate General of India, Osaka	One visa sticker	Post conveyed that the latest balance of stock was checked by the auditing team and the stock was found in order
3	Embassy of India, Tokya	Four visa stickers	Mission conveyed that prompt action was taken by informing all concerned about the cancellation of the visa-stickers
4	High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam	One visa sticker	Mission conveyed that visa stock and issue register were completely burnt during a fire on 10th April, 2002 and therefore, discrepancy could not be reconciled
5	Embassy of India, Helsinki	Two packets containing 40 passport booklets	Mission confirmed that two packets containing 40 booklets were subsequently received by them
6	Consulate General of India, Jeddah	One packet containing 100 passport booklets	Post confirmed that the 100 passport booklets were sent to Embassy of India, Doha
7	Embassy of India, Mongolia	500 visa stickers	Mission confirmed that 500 visa stickers were subsequently accounted for
8	Embassy of India, Moscow	2000 visa stickers	Mission confirmed that it has subsequently received 2000 visa stickers
9	Embassy of India, Berlin	One visa sticker	Mission indicated that the matter was subsequently cleared by the audit
10	Consulate General of India, Jeddah	300 passport booklets	Post confirmed that the 300 passport booklets have been subsequently received
11	High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur	10 Passport booklets	The missing booklets have been revoked
12	High Commission of India, Kampala	500 ordinary passport booklets	Mission confirmed that there were no missing passport booklets
13	Embassy of India, Baghdad	40 ordinary passport booklets	Mission conveyed that the 40 passports which were reportedly unaccounted were actually utilised in December, 2003
14	Embassy of India, Bucharest	11 Emergency Certificates	Revocation circular issued by the Post in July 2002
15	Consulate General of India, Houston	400 passport booklets	These were lost in transit and could not be traced The Consulate issued a loss circular in August 2003
'6	Consulate General of India, Mandalay	Four visa stickers lost	Loss circular issued in April, 2003
17	High Commission of India, Dhaka	Short receipt of 34 visa stickers during January 2004 to April 2006	Revocation circulars issued by the Mission

Resumption of talks with Pakistan

3296. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the new Government taking over in Pakistan, India has asked for an early resumption of the composite dialogue process that was stalled due to the political developments in Pakistan;